



# Happy Independence Day 2016

## Fireworks Safety



Approximately 230 people on average go to the emergency room every day with fireworks-related injuries in the month around the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday\*. If you or your family will be handling fireworks, the Champaign Fire and Champaign Police Departments would like you to be aware of the below safety tips to help in the prevention of injuries and property damage. Residents are also reminded to always maintain a working smoke alarm and to regularly practice a home safety and escape plan in case of a fire.

- ★ Always carefully read cautionary labels and performance descriptions before igniting fireworks.
- ★ A responsible adult should supervise all firework activities. Never allow children to handle or light any fireworks.
- ★ Though viewed by many as a safer alternative, sparklers can heat up anywhere from 1,800 to 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Do not allow young children to hold sparklers and do not allow children to use them without adult supervision.\*\*
- ★ Use all fireworks outdoors in a clear area away from homes, buildings and vehicles. Never light fireworks indoors or near leaves, dry grass and flammable substances.
- ★ Always have a bucket of water, water hose and/or a fire extinguisher nearby. Know ahead of time how to operate the fire extinguisher properly.
- ★ Stand several feet away from lit fireworks. Never relight a “dud” firework or stand over it to investigate. Put it out with water and dispose of it.
- ★ Never shoot fireworks into metal or glass containers.
- ★ Wear safety glasses when shooting fireworks. If injured by fireworks, immediately go to a doctor or hospital. If an eye injury occurs, do not touch or rub it, as this may cause even more damage.
- ★ If you plan to use fireworks, make sure they are legal. If you have to light the wick of a firework and it either explodes or shoots in the air, it is illegal to use in the City of Champaign. The fine for using illegal fireworks is \$185.
- ★ The best way to protect your family is to not use any fireworks at home. Attend public fireworks displays and leave the lighting to the professionals. For information on local fireworks events and activities, visit online, Champaign County Freedom Celebration, [www.july4th.net](http://www.july4th.net)

For more information on fireworks safety, visit:

\*United States Consumer Product Safety Commission: [www.cpsc.gov/fireworks](http://www.cpsc.gov/fireworks)

\*\*National Council on Fireworks Safety: [www.fireworkssafety.org](http://www.fireworkssafety.org)